

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 37, 51, 53, 55 and 56 have been amended. Claim 59 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 37-59 remain pending. The remarks below refer to the claims as amended herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 37, 42-44, 46-48 and 53-58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. 2002/0126672 to Chow ("Chow") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,713 to Baum ("Baum"). Applicant submits that claim 37 is not obvious in view of a combination of Chow and Baum.

Independent Claim 37 recites, in part,

***a select circuit to store a plurality of segment-select values;
a filter circuit to store filter data that indicates, within each of the
plurality of segments indicated by the segment select values, selected bits
and
switch circuitry to output the selected bits.***

As noted within the Office Action, Chow does not specifically teach a *select circuit* that stores a plurality of segment-select values, nor does Chow teach that the switch circuitry outputs a bit in response to one of the select signals, (Paragraph 6 of Office Action). Baum discloses a cross point switch, including an extraction mask (EXM) which specifies the bytes that are to be processed through the crosspoint switch providing any byte to any byte connectively through the switch, (Baum, col. 32, lines 42-46). Assuming, arguendo, that the bit extraction mask in Baum is equivalent to the *select circuit* of claim 37, Baum fails to teach a "***a filter circuit to store filter data that indicates, within each of the plurality of segments indicated by the segment select values, selected bits, if any, to be included within the comparand value.***" Accordingly, even if Chow and Baum could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, this combination of references still would not disclose or suggest all the elements of claim 37.

Because claims 42-44 and claims 46-48 depend from and further limit independent claim 37, they necessarily include the limitations of claim 37. As noted, however, even if Baum and Chow could somehow be combined in the manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination would still not disclose every element of independent Claim 37.

Independent Claim 53 recites, in part,

**A content addressable memory (CAM) apparatus comprising:
means for storing a plurality of segment-select values and
means for storing filter data**

Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons given in conjunction with Claim 37, even if Chow and Baum could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still would not disclose every element of independent Claim 53.

Independent Claim 55 recites, in part,

**storing a plurality of segment-select values;
storing filter data for indicating, within each of the plurality of segments
indicated by the segment select values, selected bits;**

Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons given in conjunction with Claim 37, even if Chow and Baum could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still would not disclose every element of independent Claim 55.

Independent Claim 56 recites, in part,

**receiving a plurality of segments of input data;
storing a plurality of segment-select values; and
storing filter data that indicates, within each of the plurality of segments
indicated by the segment select values, selected bits**

Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons given in conjunction with Claim 36, even if Chow and Baum could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still would not disclose every element of independent Claim 56 nor claims 57-58 which depend from, and further limit independent claim 56.

Claims 38-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Baum, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,809,330 to Ninomiya¹ ("Ninomiya"). Because claims 38-39 depend from, and further limit claim 37, claims 38-39 include the following combination of elements:

*a select circuit to store a plurality of segment-select values;
a filter circuit to store filter data that indicates, within each of the
plurality of segments indicated by the segment select values, selected bits
and
switch circuitry to output the selected bits.*

As discussed above, Chow and Baum do not disclose the above recited limitations, and Ninomiya also does not disclose these limitations. Accordingly, even if Chow, Baum, and Ninomiya could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still would not disclose every limitation of claims 38-39.

Claims 40-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Baum, further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0131331 to Reblewski et al. ("Reblewski"). Because claims 40-41 depend from, and further limit claim 37, claims 40-41 include the following combination of elements:

*a select circuit to store a plurality of segment-select values;
a filter circuit to store filter data that indicates, within each of the
plurality of segments indicated by the segment select values, selected bits
and
switch circuitry to output the selected bits.*

¹ Paragraph 7 of the Office Action references column 32 and Fig. 17B of Ninomiya, which were not found within the referenced patent. Applicant's remarks herein are made according to a general examination of entire Ninomiya reference.

As discussed above, Chow and Baum do not disclose the above recited limitations, and Reblewski also does not disclose these limitations. Accordingly, even if Chow, Baum, and Reblewski could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still would not disclose every limitation of claims 40-41.

Claim 45 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Baum as applied to claim 44, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,685 to Gandini. ("Gandini"). Because claim 45 depends from, and further limits claim 37, claim 45 includes the following combination of elements:

*a select circuit to store a plurality of segment-select values;
a filter circuit to store filter data that indicates, within each of the
plurality of segments indicated by the segment select values, selected bits
and
switch circuitry to output the selected bits.*

As discussed above, Chow and Baum do not disclose the above recited limitations, and Gandini also does not disclose these limitations. Accordingly, even if Chow, Baum and Gandini could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still would not disclose every limitation of claim 45.

Claim 50 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Baum as applied to claim 47, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0048625 to Patti et al. Because claim 50 depends directly from, and further limits, independent Claim 37, claim 50 includes the following combination of elements:

*a select circuit to store a plurality of segment-select values;
a filter circuit to store filter data that indicates, within each of the
plurality of segments indicated by the segment select values, selected bits
and
switch circuitry to output the selected bits.*

As discussed above, Chow and Baum do not disclose the above recited limitations, and Patti also does not disclose these limitations. Accordingly, even if Chow, Baum and Patti could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still would not disclose every limitation of claim 50.

Claims 49 and 51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Chow in view of Baum as applied to claim 47, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,326 to Kansal. Because claims 49 and 51 depend from, and further limit independent Claim 37, claims 49 and 51 incorporate the following combination of elements:

*a select circuit to store a plurality of segment-select values;
a filter circuit to store filter data that indicates, within each of the plurality of segments indicated by the segment select values, selected bits and
switch circuitry to output the selected bits.*

As discussed above, Chow and Baum do not disclose the above recited limitations, and Kansal also does not disclose these limitations. Accordingly, even if Chow, Baum, and Kansal could somehow be combined in a manner suggested in the Office Action, their combination still could not disclose every limitation of claims 49 and 51.

Claim Objections

Applicant also acknowledges that claim 52 has been objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant respectfully declines to rewrite this claim in independent form at this time.

New Claims:

Applicant has added new claim 59, which depends from, and further limits claim 37. Support for this new claim is found within the disclosure at least in Figs. 6, 7, 9 and 11.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be helpful in any way, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account 50-1914 for any fee deficiency associated with this Response.

Respectfully submitted

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